

Views in **The Omen**

Do not necessarily

Reflect the staff's views

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Submit Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Friday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Fridays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu or Ian McEwen, Box 286.

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The Omen Haiku

EDITORIAL

by Rachel Ithen

I think it would be rude of me not to address recent events regarding a particular article that was published in the last issue of the Omen. It is no secret that the Omen has published extremely controversial submissions in the past. Before I came to Hampshire, the signers apparently came under fire because of what had been published. I would like to talk about some basic information regarding the Omen and what it stands for before getting into the discussion of recent events, because it has come to my attention that the last issue garnered attention from many first-time Omen readers.

If you have never read the Omen before, I could understand why you might not know any of what I am about to say. But you're obviously reading this now, so after today, you have no excuse. The Omen is a free speech publication. We publish basically anything that is sent to us, as long as it has your name attached to it. This might be the cause of such controversies, because when people are given the freedom to publish their thoughts, we realize that people do, in fact, have thoughts. Many varied and distinct thoughts, many that are not well liked or supported. Some of these thoughts may be despicable, some may be completely valid, but they are still thoughts and everyone has them.

If you know me and/or read my editorial a few issues ago, you know that I'm almost constantly neurotic, worrisome, and all-around self-conscious of how others view me and my actions. I think it should come as no shock that the recent outburst over a submitted article has scared the living daylight out of me. The thought that there are people on this campus who dislike me and dislike the Omen and dislike what I'm doing with the Omen terrifies me and saddens me. I may have never spoken to you or never even laid eyes on you, but I am still the type of person who tends to be concerned with these kinds of things.

But do I regret being a signer for the Omen? Absolutely not.

I signed onto this knowing full well what the Omen did. Free speech means free speech, plain and simple. If we advertised for free speech and then censored what was submitted to us by picking and choosing only articles that we agree with or we liked reading, you all would hate us for being hypocrites. So we stand by our principle of being a free speech publication.

And I completely acknowledge the fact that this debate has grey areas, and it sometimes isn't enough to say "free speech = free speech" and call it a day. But what I am referring to specifically is the principle that the Omen was founded on and continues to work for, which is the simple fact that we publish basically everything, and that we don't change the rules around whenever we feel like it to turn the Omen into a publication that only publishes what we, the staff, decide it will publish.

In all honesty, I consider it somewhat unfair that some people, many of whom never read an issue, have read only one, or are possibly devoted readers, suddenly think that the inclusion of one particular article they dislike represents the Omen's love of hate speech. You didn't choose to think that the Omen loves topology when Connor submitted his lengthy homework assignments. You didn't choose to think that the Omen loves cupcakes when I submitted several baking recipes in the last issue. You didn't choose to think that the Omen loves everything David Axel Kurtz has ever submitted. So why now? Suddenly you see something you don't like, which is completely valid. But all we did was continue to do what we've always done, which has been to publish things that are sent to us.

Needless to say, I'm a bit upset that some people choose to focus their outrage on us now, saying things like "the Omen promotes hate speech" or even "fuck this article and fuck the Omen." Instead of hopping onto tables and screaming your lungs out, why not send a response to our inbox? If you don't like what the voice being heard is saying, make your own voice be even louder. I know we may have lost the support of some of you already, but at least consider this suggestion.

We have a little haiku on the first page of every issue, you should check it out. It says that the views of those contributing to the Omen do not represent the views of the Omen as a whole. This is very true. And is something you, dear reader, should understand and remember. The Omen's job is to publish basically anything and everything, so unlike the rest of the media, we don't just pick and choose what we want you to see. So instead of bashing us, use this wonderful resource to your advantage. Submit your own thoughts. Because we know you have them.

Why I <3 The Omen (and why you shouldn't be mad at it)

SECTION FLOWERS

Saga Without You:

Poems for Carolina

by Fiona
Stewart-Taylor

I.

Saga without you
is like Adrien Brody
without his huge nose

II.

I press the button
and warm, sweet chocolate comes out.
Meaningless- you're gone.

III.

Even the warmth of
The hot chocolate machine can't
make up for no you

IV.

Robin Rainwalker's
fly-ass shirt can't distract me
from your sad absence

V.

Dinner at five, and
I can't make dessert alone
please, please, please, be there.



Malnutrition

by Devereux S.
Fortuna

Frigid scales of metal ligaments
Torn beneath the rip of mandible
Ravaged between tooth and felt
The juices spill,
Incredible.

Scum residue stretched from lip
To lip, and black as ash
Tastes icy, crunch to hear the rip.
Fingernails turned back.
>From grabbing, grabbing,
Ripping filmed over skin,
Slicing sucking this carnal binge
I suppress myself to pretend.

I can eat, and chew only, listless things.
Fish and dead and scaled.
They withhold no feelings, these things
These things,
Although,
My soul remains impaled.



SECTION RAINBOWS

Hampshire, meet the Internet.

by Rachel Ithen

On November 4th I submitted a post to Reddit.com asking the question: “If you could say one uncensored thing to a college community, what would it be?” If you don’t know what Reddit is, it’s a social news website that has been considered by many as the “better” Digg. If you don’t know what Digg is, it’s a social news website that has been considered by many as the “worse” Reddit.

Anyway. So I submitted this question to Reddit with the following explanation: “I’m a signer for a publication at my tiny liberal arts school. We only have one rule: we publish EVERYTHING that is submitted to us, as long as it isn’t completely libelous or anonymous. So here’s your chance! This isn’t anonymous because technically it’s being submitted under my name. So, what do you want a college community to hear?”

Here’s what they said:

Citizen511

When you graduate, don’t assume the world owes you shit.

Deputeheto

Your two-minute keg stand will not look good on your resume.

Elitistjerk

Don’t fuck the monkeys.

Unfromcool

Enjoy your vacation.

This_is_your_dad

Serious advice: drop out, live life, and come back to school when you are ready. Do not waste your youth in class. Waste your youth out in the world.

Crinklecut:

Welcome to liberal arts. In four years you will still only be qualified to work at McDonald’s, and they aren’t even hiring.

Gouge_away

Put down the phone and engage with the world around you.

DbldkrPkr

Your “Angry Studies” professors live in an insular world where their very jobs depend on them continuing to be victimized by the usual suspects of society. That’s why they bait them.

Sliverlake

GET OFF MY FUCKING LAWN!!!

Owwmykneecap

Hello Greendale!



The Cover Letter I Accidentally Sent In A Sleepless Haze To The Poetry Editor of *Copper Nickel* Without Replacing Generic Place-Holder Words

by Susie Svendsgaard

Dear look up the poetry editor,

Attached is a poetry submission for your journal, Your Journal. There are number poems in this submission; “Poem”, “Poem”, and “Poem”. This submission is a total of number words. This is a simultaneous submission.

My work has appeared in “Right Hand Pointing.” I am currently concentrating in creative writing and linguistics at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. I am quirky bio factoid.

Thank you for your time.

Yours,
s. c. Svendsgaard



Deathfest Fall 2010

Twitter Feed

submitted and compiled by Zachary Clemente

silby: #Deathfest tomorrow. Feeling...hesitant.

silby: Tonight: #Deathfest. Fuck yeah.

invictuz_rara: today is a good day for everyone else die at #Deathfest. And then for me to die actually from the flu. YEEEEEEEEEEEEEE-AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!!

invictuz_rara: #Deathfest setup goes well, getting super-crazy excited.

Robotulisms: Wish I could go to #Deathfest. Have fun everyone. Roll a D20, add your modifier, and fucking DIE.

RockyChristine: I feel like I've been adequately productive to justify dying horribly tonight. #deathfest

AnotherEcho: Fully prepared to die tonight at least once. #deathfest

FuckinJake: I am the last of a race of sentient tophats. #DeathFest

FuckinJake: "David Attenborough is in all of us." #DeathFest

silby: #Deathfest is underway and I have nothing to do! #woot #tier3

diw08: #deathfest broke 180 players! (almost

190) Thats 45 more than we have ever had!!

FuckinJake: So far we've had far greater success overcoming these mummies thru communication and cultural outreach than we did through force. #DeathFest

RockyChristine: The father guy just grounded a Tesla coil. #Deathfest

RockyChristine: Tesla coils are not designed to have a lawyer inside of them. #Deathfest

RockyChristine: I just killed a lawyer with a bro hug. #DeathFest

FuckinJake: "...so are you now permanently Carmen Sandiego's clothes?" #DeathFest

AnotherEcho: Survived to tier 2! #deathfest

FuckinJake: Made it through Tier 1! #DeathFest

silby: People are slobs, ech. #deathfest

FuckinJake: "If Jackie Chan commandeered my gold cart, would I die?" #DeathFest

FuckinJake: "If 'omnivorous extradimensional lions' rhymes with rhymes with 'hat', so does 'Batman.'" #DeathFest

RockyChristine: "You are one horny action figure." #deathfest

RockyChristine: Nudie pics of mutant potatoes. #Deathfest

RockyChristine: What's the verdict? Can I fuck the potatoes? #Deathfest

Madzteir: "Since it's probably a bad idea for me to try and seduce the earwig..." -@loseby #deathfest

AnotherEcho: Died in tier two. Made it far, though! #deathfest

Madzteir: is the motherfucking @yelling_bird #deathfest

FuckinJake: Make it to Tier 3 for the first time! #DeathFest

RockyChristine: "it's after midnight, I'm in a dress." #deathfest

Madzteir: Claire hits a child with a tire iron. #deathfest

Madzteir: "That's...four dead children in five turns. Let's see if we can keep this up." -@sibly #deathfest

Madzteir: aaaaand... one down. #deathfest

RockyChristine: Drunk Force ghost hologram Obi-Wan Kenobi. #Deathfest

FuckinJake: "I'm going to try to kill a child by filling it with the color orange." #DeathFest

Madzteir: "I am going to try to kill a child by filling it with the color orange." #deathfest

Madzteir: "Oh, and also? Everyone has syphilis." #deathfest

FuckinJake: Dead, but I made it to the end! As a non-combatant who was also a hat! #DeathFest

Madzteir: "You have ripped the lips off a baby." #deathfest

Madzteir: "There is a small orphan child in this loot pile." #deathfest

Madzteir: "Make your attack roll, and +2 because you are naked." #deathfest

Madzteir: wayy too fucking loud for the microphone. #deathfest

Madzteir: down to four. how exciting! #deathfest #almostover

Madzteir: "that's not a penis." #deathfest

Madzteir: Alexsi does his head-bangin', bass-playin' thing. #deathfest

Madzteir: I actually remember the episode that would disprove the "Ms. Frizzle is a frumpy old lady who doesn't know rock." #deathfest

Madzteir: two #deathfest winners? blasphemy!

Madzteir: and all the men with long hair commence headbanging. #deathfest

FuckinJake: The joint winners of this semester's #DeathFest: Mastodon's rhythm section.

RockyChristine: "For bringing down a death god with a fraternity." #deathfest

invictuz_rara: thank you ALL for such a spectacular #Deathfest. I love you all dearly for it.

silby: Taking myself out for post-#Deathfest brunch. Nobody else gets to come.

ssdd3: Holy fuck, #deathfest. Congrats to @Makel for the Chris Sommer Award for Voice Acting. Shoutout to Ian Campbell for letting me kill e'ryone.



SECTION UNICORNS

RE: I hate black people

by Robert Liota

Birth certificates, or it didn't happen.



Dear Twitter

by Ian McEwen

Dear Twitter:

As you can see on some previous pages of this issue, my tweets (@ianmcorvidae) don't show up in search results, most notably for tags. This is because you fuckers apparently thought I was spamming tags or something.

I do that now, out of spite.

I did not, when you blocked me. In fact, I was using a publicized hashtag for a publicized event; I was just doing it somewhat before the rest of the attendees.

Now you blocked me.

I should file a complaint somewhere other than the Omen, probably.

But hey, maybe in a couple years one of you people who's actually reading this (ha!) will work at Twitter, and then you can fix it for me.

So:

Dear Hampshire:

In the future, when you work at Twitter, fix the mistakes of the past. Unblock @ianmcorvidae.

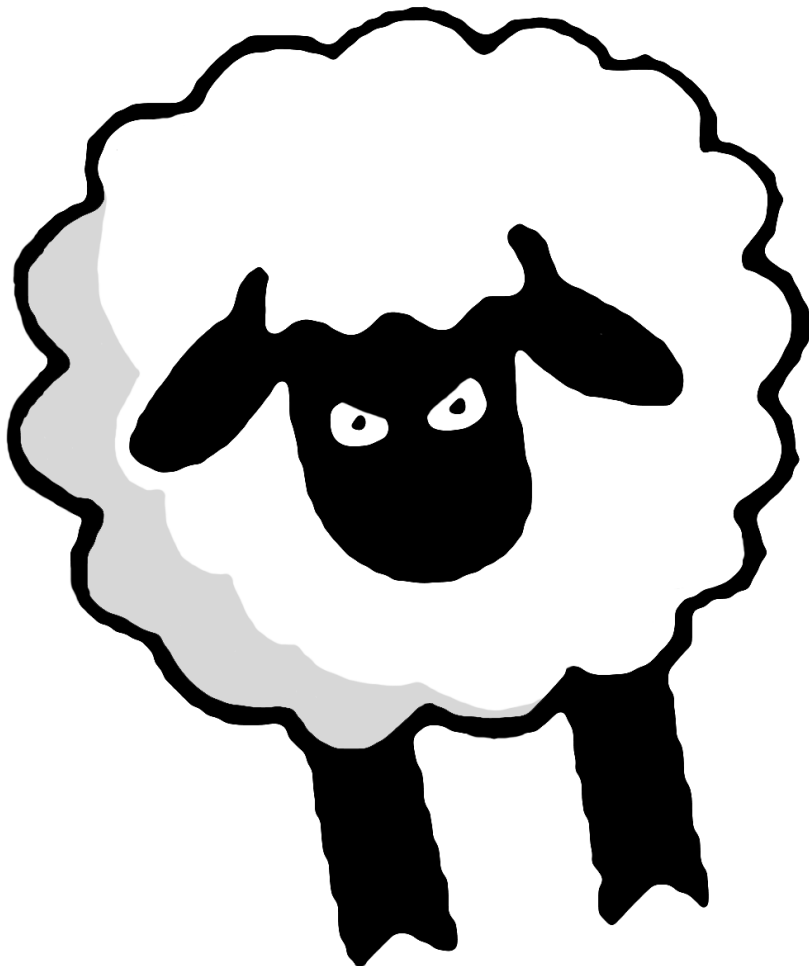
For Great Justice.



**For good measure, one more
time here: If you have something
to say, submit it to the Omen.**

**We'll publish it. Even if it's silly.
Even if it's hackneyed. Even if
it's angry at us.**

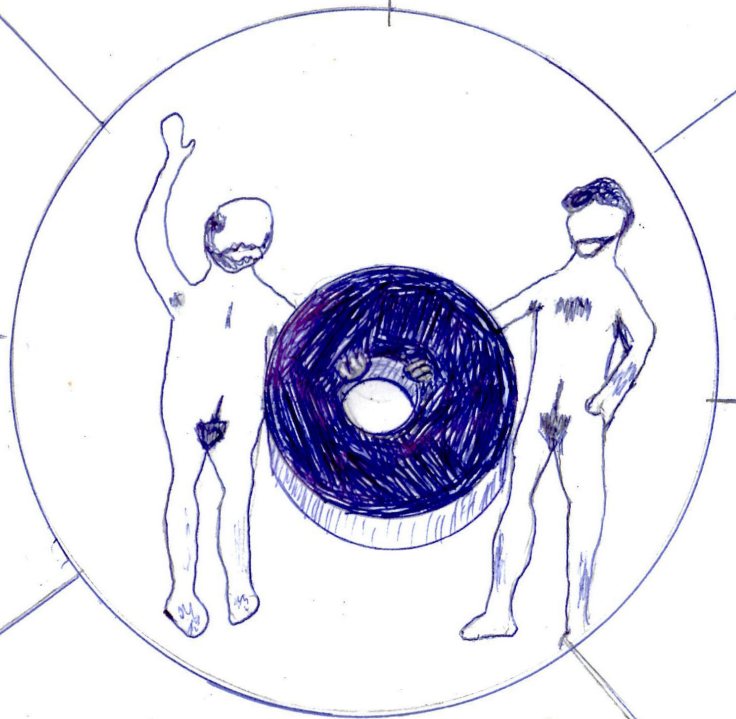
**Hell, especially if it's angry at
us.**



**The
Omen
loves
you.**

(and your little dog, too)

the



MEN